

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 8-18 are pending. Claims 1-7 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 8-11 are amended, and claims 12-18 are added. Claims 8 and 12 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

Drawings

The Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson. Clarification in the next official communication is respectfully requested.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 20, 2000. An initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 has been returned by the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 3 for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. In order to overcome this objection, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 3 are canceled herein, these claims being presented as new independent claim 12 and new dependent claims 13-14, thereby correcting the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1-7 are canceled, claims 8-11 are amended and claims 12-18 are added, thus correcting each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as set forth in this amendment, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li. (U.S. 6,094,666). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 canceled and presented herein as new independent 12.

New independent claim 12 recites a combination of method steps directed to a Chinese character encoding input method including providing a display capable of displaying a JiuGong lattice pattern of radicals and Chinese characters, the lattice pattern having three rows and three columns, providing a keyboard with keys numbered 1-9 arranged in the three rows and the three columns corresponding the lattice pattern; wherein, in order to input any one of the monolithic Chinese characters, only two of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed, and in order to input any one of the transverse Chinese characters, only three of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed.

In a similar manner, independent claim 8 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to Chinese character encoding apparatus, wherein in order to input any one of the monolithic Chinese characters, only two of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed, and in order to input any one of the transverse Chinese characters, only three of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed.

Full support for the limitations set forth in independent claims 8 and 12 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 16, line 16-18, and page 18, lines 9-10. See also FIGS. 17A-C, and FIGS. 19A-C.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements and method steps set forth in independent claims 8 and 12 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Li.

Applicants respectfully submit that Li fails to teach or suggest displaying a JiuGong lattice pattern of radicals and Chinese characters, the lattice pattern having three rows and three columns, wherein, in order to input any one of the monolithic Chinese characters, only two of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed, and in order to input any one of the transverse Chinese characters, only three of the keys numbered 1-9 need be pressed.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Li merely discloses grouping Chinese characters in 10 symbol groupings, and thus these groupings cannot all be accommodated by the JuiGong lattice pattern of three rows and three columns corresponding to keys on the

keyboard numbered 1-9. Moreover, Li is silent regarding the pressing only two or three keys numbered 1-9 to input a monolithic or transverse Chinese character, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements and method steps set forth in independent claims 8 and 12 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Li, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, claim 8 and 12 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

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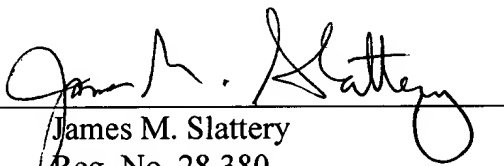
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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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